

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 2. (canceled)

1           3. (currently amended) The bone screw according to  
2 claim [[11]] 12 wherein in the second screwthread portion and in  
3 the third screwthread portion every 360° several recesses are  
4 formed.

1           4. (previously presented) The bone screw according to  
2 claim 3 wherein every 360° three recesses are formed.

1           5. (currently amended) The bone screw according to  
2 claim [[11]] 12 wherein each recess extends as a chord toward the  
3 screw shank from the cutting edges of the second screwthread  
4 portion and of the third screwthread portion and joins in an arc  
5 again the respective cutting edge.

1           6. (currently amended) The bone screw according to  
2 claim [[11]] 12 wherein the screw shank has a cylindrical form.

1           7. (currently amended) The bone screw according to  
2 claim [[11]] 12 wherein the screw shank has a tapered form.

1           8. (currently amended) The bone screw according to  
2 claim [[11]] 12 wherein the first screwthread portion comprises  
3 three turns.

1           9. (currently amended) The bone screw according to  
2 claim [[11]] 12 wherein the second screwthread portion comprises  
3 three turns.

1           10. (currently amended) The bone screw according to  
2 claim [[7]] 12 wherein [[the]] lengths of the cutting edges of the  
3 turns of the second screwthread portion are constant.

11. (canceled)

1           12. (currently amended) A bone screw comprising:  
2 an elongated shank having a free end and at an opposite  
3 end a screw head;  
4 a screwthread extending generally helically along the  
5 shank from the free end toward the screw head and itself having  
6 a first screwthread portion extending from the free  
7 end toward the screw head forming a generally  
8 continuous and smooth cutting edge,  
9 a second screwthread portion extending from the  
10 first portion toward the screw head and formed  
11 of a plurality of turns each formed with at

12                   least one outwardly open recess, the recesses  
13                   being of increasing angular dimension away from  
14                   the free end, and  
15           a third screwthread portion extending from the  
16                   second portion to [[ward]] the screw head and  
17                   formed of a plurality of turns each formed with  
18                   at least one outwardly open recesses, all of  
19                   the recesses of the third portion being of  
20                   generally the same angular dimension.

1                   13. (previously presented) The bone screw defined in  
2                   claim 12 wherein the angular dimension of the recesses of the third  
3                   portion corresponds substantially to the angular dimension of that  
4                   turn of the second portion closest to the third portion.